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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,858	09/24/2003	Kurt A. Schroder	NTI1002US	4398
7590	12/21/2004		EXAMINER	
Gerald E. Lester 22107 Fielder Dr. Katy, TX 77450			HOANG, TU BA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/669,858	SCHRODER ET AL.
	Examiner Tu Ba Hoang	Art Unit 3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_. is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 2-6, 10-17 and 19-26 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1, 7-9 and 18 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_. is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_. are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/23/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 7-9, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a and e) as being anticipated by Boulos et al (US 2003/0143153). Boulos et al shows a nanopowder synthesis system and method thereof for substantially increasing production rates of nanopowder (or increased yields) in which at least one member of precursor material is immersed in a gaseous atmosphere 16 of one of a reaction gas, a quenching gas, and a combination thereof (i.e., titanium tetrachloride, page 3, paragraph [0059]), a high magnetic field (i.e., solenoid coil or magnet 18) is applied to the precursor material in an area of plasma interaction with the at least one member for generating high magnetic field and plasma, wherein the plasma that interacts with the member and the gaseous atmosphere is formed to produce the nanopowder (page 4, paragraph [0061]).

Claims 2-6, 10-17, and 19-26 are allowed.

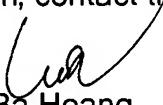
The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not show or fairly suggest the use of a pair of ablative electrodes of precursor material aligned in opposing relation from one to another, whereby a high magnetic field is applied to the electrodes in near proximity to area of plasma interaction with the pair of electrodes (i.e., surrounding opposing tips of the pair of electrodes).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Schroder et al (US 6,777,639), Yadav et al (US 6,719,821 and US 6,214,195), Milani et al (US 6,392,188), and Hendrickson et al (US 5,962,082).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu Ba Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-fri from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Tu Ba Hoang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3742

December 10, 2004